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USDA CLUB



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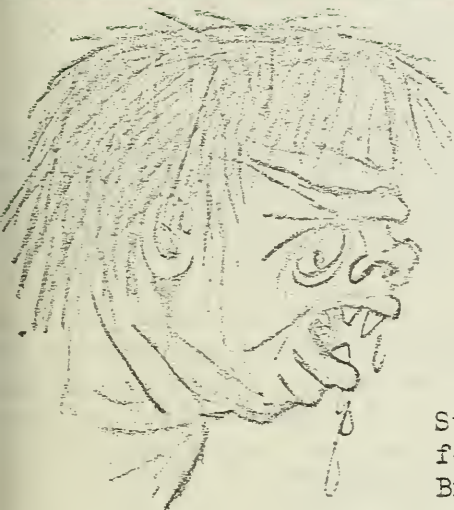
News

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ISSUE NO. 3

Dallas, Texas

October 7, 1960



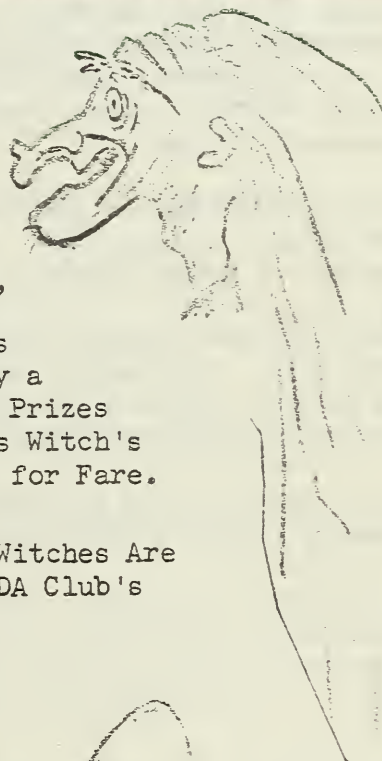
HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE VFW HALL IS
HAUNTED!!

Spooks Have Rumored
That It Will Be
Invaded Friday Nite,
October 28, with
Bingo Players, Dancers
Being Spirited Away by a
Supernatural Combo, and Prizes
for Children; as well as Witch's
Brew and Unearthly Food for Fare.

All Ghouls, Ghosts and Witches Are
Invited to Haunt the USDA Club's
Hallowe'en Soiree.

PUT ON YOUR MOST
BEWITCHING FACE
AND COME!!!!!!!!!!



MOSTLY ABOUT PEOPLE

Some of our people have vacationed recently in far away places: PAT COPELAND planed to San Francisco; MARY NELL BARNES motored to Sault Sainte Marie; CHARLES JARVIS and NORMA COLE saw New York; MAYBELLE SHOEMAKER visited the Pacific Northwest and Canada; and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. MOSELEY toured Central and Southern Europe.

HELEN MILAM became Mrs. Cecil Fernandez on August 27. They honeymooned to Albuquerque, N. M.

Two September brides from the Fiscal Division: Mrs. Donald Webb nee SHIRLEY TUCKER and Mrs. William Horton nee JUDY ANN SELF.

A new addition to the ARTHUR LESKO family - Janice Marie born 9-16.

After four grandsons, Col. A. E. MORRIS is quite proud of his new granddaughter, Anne Elizabeth, born Aug. 19 to his daughter, Rosemary.

HAROLD BRYSON is a papa for the first time - Shannon Anne was born Sept. 14.

VAN MYERS is home from the hospital again. He's doing fairly well and is to return for a check-up in Dec.

We are very happy to see FRANCIS H. EARLE back on the job after having had surgery in July.

R. N. RICHARDSON had an emergency tracheotomy on Sept. 19. He is much improved now.

- Reported by Lee Wasson

W. DOUGLAS LOCKMAN, with CSS Commodity Office since 1955, has transferred to General Services Administration. Since Doug will be performing work he "cut his teeth on", we are very happy for him, and he has our best wishes.

"PAT" NEWTON, CSS CO, is a grandfather for the first time, as his daughter and her husband became the parents of a boy on September 24.

JO ANN BRANSCUM, (DACD CO) left us on a Friday and her new boy arrived on Sunday. This is another "down to the wire" case, but the little one was a mite early and is in the "warmer".

JOHN RALSTON, with CSS CO for 3 years over a period of 5 years, has transferred to FDIC with a promotion. This is good news about a hard-working man. Our best wishes to John.

EDNA HALBERT, one of CSS secretaries in the Examination Section, Fiscal, has done bugged out to California, for the reason that her husband got transferred there.

CAROL McELROY nee CANNEFAX, Edna's predecessor, has gone even further west, as she lives in Hawaii. Carol is the daughter of Bert Cannefax, who is by no means a newcomer to the Department.

"I'm not lazy—I'm just tired of of making progress."

LOST! A ray of sunshine
 WHERE? CSS Commodity Office
 WHO? Berniece Garrett -
 retired recently from Government
 Service. She started to work for
 the Government after finishing
 High School, and altogether she
 has 24 years service, 10 years of
 which was spent in the Commodity
 Office. Most of this time spent
 in Traffic Management Division,
 plus nearly one year in Fiscal
 Division. Berniece will be missed
 in the Commodity Office, and all
 her friends wish her a very happy
 and prosperous future.

- Juanita Foster

BE PREPARED ! !

Be prepared to hear one of the
 most exciting speakers the USDA
 Club has ever had the good fortune
 to select.

Erle Cocke, Jr., an international
 statesman will deliver an inspir-
 ing talk which should be of inter-
 est to all USDA employees at the
 next USDA Club General Meeting on
 November 21, at 10:00 A.M. This
 is one extraordinary meeting to
 look forward to attending.

"Keep frowning -- you'll get credit
 for thinking."

"I said maybe --- and that's final."

"No matter what I do, somebody al-
 ways knew I would."

John Slaughter, Director of
 Food Distribution Division, AMS,
 is the 1960 chairman of the
 Christmas Toy Drive sponsored by
 the Federal Business Association.
 Mr. Slaughter is out of town at
 time of publication, but we will
 have more on this in the next is-
 sue. I am sure that many USDA
 people will be happy to help in
 this worthwhile movement.

OOPS! I GOOFED!

Our September issue listed the
 USDA Agencies in Dallas. We missed
 a couple and the missed groups very
 promptly notified us. They are:
 Marketing Information Service, AMS,
 and Office of Audit, AMS, both lo-
 cated at 708 Jackson Street. In
 checking into this discrepancy (as
 we say in government correspondence)
 we found that the reason these
 groups got left out is because
 neither of the offices had appointed
 a USDA Club Director. I am wonder-
 ing if Bava B. Stilley (of MIS) and
 Cecil Perry of AMS Audit would be so
 kind as to take care of this little
 matter for the USDA Club, since
 these two were interested enough to
 notice that they were missed.

The article promised for this
 issue on interviews with retired
 people has not been completed. This
 reporter could promise a November
 issue delivery, but I had better
 settle by merely saying that I ex-
 pect to complete the interviews be-
 fore my own retirement, tentatively
 scheduled for 1973.

"WANNA" COLUMN

To Sell

1959 Cadillac Convertible - Blue
Mary Miller - Ext. 2833

Famous Children's Books - $\frac{1}{2}$ price
New and latest edition
LA-8-2230 early in morning and
late in evening.

14 ft. Yellow Jacket Catalina boat
and trailer, skis, surfboard,
cushions, and 40 HP Mercury Motor-
Mary Miller - Ext. 2833 \$500

Lionel Train - like new - \$50.00
Kenneth Moore - Ext. 2829

G.E. Portable Dishwasher - 2 yrs old
excellent condition - \$75.00
Lola Chancellor - Ext. 2163

~~**NATIONAL XEROX MACHINE - MARVEL~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX - XXXXXX~~

Remington 35 Automatic & case - \$100
Browning 12-gauge Automatic & case -
\$85.00

Jim Wright - Ext. 357

Rides Wanted

From and to Ft. Worth - 8:00 to 4:30
Roy Hauck - Ext. 2203

From and to Irving (6th St.)
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Judy Horton - Ext. 2301

IF YOU WANT TO-RUN AN AD, CALL
LOIS COUCH, CSS - EXT. 425.

** This ad was so attractive that
the man who made the offer de-
cided to keep it.

A THOUGHT FOR YOU

By Hal Wright

The latest dictionary defines
"gossip" as familiar or idle talk,
groundless rumor, or false tale.
The same book defines "slander" as
to injure by uttering a false re-
port.

The legal difference between the
two is a large one; but morally,
gossip and slander are as close as
double cousins.

Gossip is nearly always prefaced
by such phrases as "I've heard,"
"They say," "I'm not sure but,"
"Don't say I told you," "If the
truth were known, I'd bet," and a
host of others that for some mys-
terious reason seems to ease the
conscience of the gossipier.

Anytime we hear a story starting
in this way, best we forget it, or
at least not repeat it. When some-
one starts a tale in this manner,
he or she has already admitted they
know nothing about the matter and
are just repeating, very probably
with enlargements, something some-
one else told them already enlarged
upon to start with, and the result
is a story that has lost all re-
semblance to the truth or reality.

There is a mighty thin line be-
tween gossip and slander from a mor-
al standpoint, and too many times
reputations are blackened and people
done irreparable injury because
someone let their imagination and
tongue work too freely about some-
thing that in 99% of the time was
none of their business to start with

We have too many difficulties to face as we go through life and none of us would thank anyone for adding to our problems. By the same reasoning, we should resolve not to be a party to idle gossip and the possibility of hurting the other fellow.

Keep in mind that you might be the next victim of vicious idle talk; and unless we can say something good about someone, let's not say it at all. Think it over.
 * * * * *

USDA Club News was first published beginning in January, 1949, with Ozelle Waller, CSS, as editor. Since then, Mildred Yeager of CSS has served as editor on two occasions and Jimmy Hyles on two separate tours (one while with FFA and one with CSS). The present editor, David Wells, served previously in 1955.

Here's some of the news which appeared in the January, 1950, issue. The president of the USDA Club was Mr. William F. Farrell, Office of General Counsel (the title in those days was Office of the Solicitor); Mrs. Jessie O. Boney, now retired, was treasurer; Col. Arving E. Morris of Commodity Office was elected president of the Board of Directors of the USDA Federal Credit Union. The January 1950 issue also reported that a choral club was proposed to be organized among USDA members. The Dallas FFA Office (now CSS) reported an expansion due to a transfer of many activities from the Kansas City Office.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Flu vaccine is being given to many USDA employees and will give some protection against flu viruses. However, health care is still needed by all to build body defenses as we begin the fall and winter seasons

Eat a well balanced diet and be sure to include daily some foods rich in Vitamin C, such as oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes, or their juices. Drink plenty of water - a sip at the fountain may quench your thirst, but your body needs more.

We need daily exercise, but becoming over-tired lowers body resistance. You may not need exactly eight hours of sleep, but you need at least that amount of rest and relaxation during the twenty-four hours.

Then, if you begin symptoms of a cold or sore throat, take immediate steps to help yourself and others. Drink more fluids, including plenty of fruit juices, and rest more. A day or two in bed when you have a cold and sore throat might prevent complications requiring a week or two in bed. Also, you would avoid spreading germs to co-workers.

If you do continue working when you have a cold, avoid close contact with others as much as possible. As you learned in early childhood, cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. But - ! If you develop fever, begin sick leave at once and consult your physician!

Jean Morgan, R. N.

"KILROY WAS HERE"

You may not know it, but I am a military expert. This opinion is my own, since I am an enlisted man and very likely will continue to be. The latter is not only my opinion, I'm told. Having been chosen to serve for three years during World War II, and having chosen to serve continually in the Active Reserve since its reactivation in 1949, I should like to report to my old buddies of World War II about some of the things which are different and about the few things which are still the same. At least these were some of the things I found out or observed during my recent two-week tour of duty at dear old Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Army bunks are still the same size for enlisted men, but the officers' quarters now have bunks as wide as single beds. Since the width of a soldier's posterior has not heretofore been a prerequisite for a commission, and since on the average, officers do not appear to be wider anywhere than enlisted men, I am at a loss to understand why this should be. Knowing better than to pose the question to someone who would know, I asked one of the second lieutenants (I would say "young second looney" but everyone knows that all second lieutenants are always young.) His reply to this master sergeant: "Well, sir," (get that). "It has always been that way since I've been in the Army."

Army expressions change too. I couldn't find any of the younger group (and they're Regular Army, too) who ever heard of "Hubba, Hubba" or "My aching back", which are among the more nostalgic, indefinable slang of our day. One serious young lad volunteered for "Hubba, Hubba" that it was a military tactic used by the Soviet Army in deploying field artillery pieces (Hub to hub, get it?) This is not an insane answer, when you consider that the kid's mother is the same age as Betty Grable.

First Sergeants are referred to as "Den Mothers" though not in their hearing. All "non-coms" are "honchos", a Japanese word for leader. The Commanding Officer is no longer the "Old Man"; he is the "Chief Honcho." (The spelling for Honcho is mine; no one to whom I talked had ever seen it in print.)

Remember the posters in the mess halls reading, "Food Will Win the War" (and someone wrote in beneath the sign, "Just As Soon As We Can Find Out How To Get It To The Enemy.)? Actually, the food is considerably better than in the days of the Dog-Faces of World War II. There are milk "bars" which always get a heavy play, and anyone can go in for coffee at 9:30 and 2:30.

On the serious side, the Army as a fighting force has changed more since we left than in the period between the Civil War and our war. For example, the striking fire-power of the present Battle Group (old time Regiment) is as great as a whole Army Group of World War II. The new glamour boys of the Army are apparently the Field Artillery, replacing the airborne infantry. As I get it, a nuclear weapons officer has to know as much about artillery as an old-time battalion fire control officer, as much radar as old anti-aircraft, and as much weather as a navigator. And he is probably a first lieutenant.

And here's something for some other people to think about who also work for the government. The peace-time army is never at full strength, and this means that some of the better-paying jobs just don't get filled, or else they get filled at a lower rating, or salary. For example, Army Regulations were written over two years ago to authorize a Grade E-8 (and more pay) for Master Sergeants, but to date only 5% of all the men eligible have received this raise. (And I might add that no Reservists have gotten this increase.)

The Army is apparently running out of soldiers with combat experience, especially among enlisted personnel. This is due to the fact that our World War II group of troops was so huge that it had career enlisted men running out its collective ears, and these fellows are just now reaching the 20-year retirement stage. Many of these have been Master Sergeants for 15 years or more, and this has sort of discouraged younger men. I talked to an RA Master Sergeant with only 15 years, and he was SFC (old Tech Sergeant) for 8 years. He says that he was lucky, as the Korean War was extremely hazardous on men with his training as an operations sergeant in a Heavy Weapons Artillery Battalion.

In one respect, at least, our modern army has not changed since your time. All soldiers like girls. The young ones like to dance with them, the next group likes to wine and dine them, and the next group just looks at the younger groups and grows more envious. (I won't identify my group.)

The whole thing is a little sad. If I hadn't written "Kilroy Was Here" on the latrine wall before I left, it wouldn't have seemed at all like the old Army we knew.

David M. Wells
M/Sgt. (E/7), ER 38528136
CA-USAR

The following has been extracted from a pamphlet issued by the Civil Service Commission on the Hatch Act. We believe it will be of particular interest and information this year.

What Employees May Do

These are some permissible activities with regard to politics—

- You have the right to vote as you choose. Political activity restrictions do not relieve a Federal employee of his obligation as a citizen to inform himself of the issues and to register and vote. Employees are encouraged to vote by being given up to 1 day off without charge to leave in order to register and to vote in States where absentee balloting is not permitted.
- You have the right to express your opinions on all political subjects and candidates as long as you do not do so in such a manner as to take an active part in political management or political campaigns of a partisan nature.
- You may make a voluntary campaign contribution to any regularly constituted political organization. (Note restrictions below.)
- You may display a political sticker on your private automobile if the use of stickers is permitted by local ordinance, but you should not do so while on duty conducting the public business.
- You may wear a political badge or button while you are not on duty performing the public business.
- You may accept appointment to such positions as justice of the peace and member of boards of education, school committees, and boards of public libraries and religious or charitable institutions if your agency decides the holding of these local offices will not conflict or interfere with the discharge of your Federal duties. If these offices are elective, you may not participate in a partisan political election.
- You may participate in a nonpartisan local election in which party designation, nomination, and sponsorship are completely absent. You may be a candidate for office in such an election and you may hold the office after election if the head of your agency decides that your holding it will not interfere with your Federal employment.

- You may not campaign for or against a political party or candidate.
- You may not use your automobile to transport voters, except members of your immediate family, to the polls.
- You may not distribute campaign material.
- You may not march in a political parade.
- You may not sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote such activities as political dinners.
- You may not write for publication or publish any article or letter soliciting votes for or against any political party or candidate.
- You may not solicit or receive any assessment or contribution for any political purpose.
- You may not make a political contribution in a Federal building or to some other employee.
- You may petition Congress or any Member of Congress. For example, you may write to your Congressman and tell him how you think he should vote on any issue.
- You may sign petitions, including nominating petitions, but may not initiate them or canvass for the signature of others if they are identified with partisan political management or campaigns.
- You may attend political rallies and join political clubs, but you cannot take an active part in the conduct of the rally or the operation of the club or act as chairman, officer, committee member, or delegate. You may vote on issues, but you may not speak for or against them.

What Employees Are Prohibited From Doing

The general prohibition on Federal employees is that they may not take an active part in political management or in political campaigns of a partisan character. These are some of the prohibited activities—

- You may not be a candidate for nomination or for election to a National or State office. You may run for a community office only as described in the sections *What Employees May Do* and *Exemptions for Certain Communities*.
- You may not solicit others to become candidates for nomination or election to partisan offices.